



**City of Helena**

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS 6

Exhibit No. 7

Ronald J. Alles, City Manager 4-3-13

316 North Park Avenue

Helena, MT 59623

Bill No. HB 2

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March 29, 2013

Dear Senate Finance and Claims Committee Members:

**The City of Helena requests your support in funding the Montana Main Street Program with HB 2.**

The Montana Main Street Program is an effective mechanism to strengthen Montana communities to achieve their economic development goals. The program provides valuable, practical technical advice for organizational partnerships, promotion, design, and for reinforcing economic assets while diversifying the economic base through economic restructuring.

The Montana Main Street Program helps revitalize current businesses and attract new business to the region, and provides the City of Helena with another tool to aid in implementing objectives of the 2011 Helena Growth Policy. The City of Helena recently became a Main Street member to further its economic development goals related to improving the vitality and viability of Helena's downtown core, supporting community partnerships, and sharing resources and expertise with other communities.

The Montana Main Street Program will be instrumental in providing funding for a property tax analysis and revenue mapping project to better understand the value of development and investments in Helena's downtown. This project includes creating a citywide set of maps demonstrating land and property valuation with revenue production charts, collaborative GIS training and community presentation to report the findings and issues unique to Helena.

With Main Street funding, nationally known consultant Joe Minicozzi will research and present Helena-specific information that can be used to support additional community planning efforts. This information will be valuable as an education tool for local policy makers and potential investors/developers. This project is a noteworthy example of how the Montana Main Street program is significantly beneficial for communities across the state.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Alles  
Helena City Manager